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STATE OF VERMONT
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION FIANCE

Wednesday, August 3, 2011

Minutes subject to approval

Members present: Representatives Ancel and Branagan and Senators Cummings, Kitchel, and Snelling.

Special Committee Member present: Representative Donovan, Chair, House Committee on Education.

Others present: Administration, Joint Fiscal Office staff, various lobbyists, and advocacy groups and members of the media.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. in room 10 of the State House, asked for the committee members to introduce themselves to their guests, Lawrence O. Picus and team members: Allan R. Odden, William J. Glenn, Michael P. Griffith, and Michael Wolkoff.

Mr. Picus gave an overview of the past day and a half of meetings his team participated in with key Vermont education people in gathering information on Vermont's education finance system. The exercise was intended to promote a better understanding of Vermont's system for the team, and information on data availability. He applauded Vermont's education finance staff for their knowledge and understanding of Vermont's education finance system and its information base.

The Chair opened up the discussion for questions from the committee, and committee members carried out a dialogue with the consultant team. The Picus Team explained how it does some school level sampling of improving schools to demonstrate evidence-based resource allocations. They were currently enlisting the help of the Department of Education and others to determine those improving schools.

The Picus Team then explained how the public engagement process of the data collection would work. There would be three public hearings through the school-based Learning Network. The first would focus on general questions the team will provide prior to the hearings; the second would focus on questions to the findings portion of the study; and the third would cover the reaction from the draft report.

The Chair thanked the team for its overview of the study work plan, and adjourned the Committee at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Utton-Jerman, Joint Fiscal Office